

III. REMARKS

Applicant points out that any claim amendments made herein, including cancellation of claims, is done without prejudice, as Applicant does not acquiesce to the rejection of rejection of claims canceled herein and as all claim amendments made herein are done for reasons other than any admission as to the propriety of the rejection. As such, Applicant reserves the right to pursue any claims cancelled herein in any divisional, continuation, or other type of continuing application.

Applicant indicates that not only are certain claims cancelled, but certain claims (claims 53-55) are amended so as to remove a reference to a base claim that is being canceled herein.

The claim amendments submitted herein conform to the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.116, as they do not introduce new issues, require a new search, or touch the merits of the claims. Indeed, as mentioned, they merely remove issues from appeal.

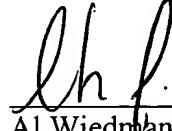
IV. CONCLUSION

This amendment after final office action is filed alongside Appellant's Brief seeking review of the final rejection advanced by the Office on April 9, 2003. The Applicant is amending the claims herein merely to remove issues from appeal. Specifically, the Applicant cancels herein claims 15-19 and claims 39-42, and amends the text of claims 53-55 (to remove a reference to a claim rejected herein). The Applicant submits that the claim amendments submitted herein should be entered because these claim amendments conform with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

Dated this 9th day of December 2003.

Respectfully Submitted:

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